

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/658,809

Examiner

Hoan H. Tran

Applicant(s)

TSUSAKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2852



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/03, 4/04, 11/04, 2/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-36 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-12

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a second circuit board being disposed substantially parallel to a first circuit board and on which electronic components that are horizontally deviated from and larger in size than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted; wherein at least a part of the transporting section is placed in a space which is defined by a height difference between the electronic components mounted on the circuit boards.

Claims 13-24

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a second circuit board being disposed substantially parallel to a first circuit board and on which electronic components that are horizontally deviated from and larger in size than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted; wherein the transporting section is placed in a position which is opposed to the first circuit board, and which is not opposed to the second circuit board.

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Claims 25-36

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a second circuit board being disposed substantially parallel to a first circuit board and on which electronic components that are horizontally deviated from and larger in size than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted; wherein the electronic components mounted on the second circuit board are placed in a space which is defined between the image forming unit and the fixing unit.

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Ito et al. [US 2004/0190963] disclose an image forming apparatus having a recirculation path.
- Yoshihara et al. [US 2004/0096229] disclose an exhaust system for an image forming apparatus.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
July 23, 2005



HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER